396 ^MILE ZOLA, NOVELIST AND REFORMER

have predisposed Mm to laziness, but he mastered such inclination by compelling himself to do a certain amount of work every day. As a rule he then wrote quite sufficient "copy" to form three pages of books, in addition to occasional newspaper articles. also carried on an extensive correspondence, the vet time when lie had recourse to secretarial was period of tie Dreyfus case. Nulla dies sine motto he had adopted early in life, and lest it should forgotten it was graven in letters of gold over the fireplace of his large study at If £dan, where most of his books written.

At M&Ian he rose at eight o'clock, went for stroll, seating himself at his writing table at and ing till one o'clock, usually on an empty stomach, for after he had resolved to conquer his corpulence his consisted generally of a mere crust of bread, though and again he might partake of a couple of "on plate," wMcli to please him had to be cooked to nicety. one o'clock he lunched; and then, perhaps, nap, after which, he either read the papers worked an article or went out walking, cycling, or boating. If were at home in the afternoon, he drank a cup of tea, this carried him on till dinner, which was at. past seven. Afterwards, if friends were staying

with him, there might be a game of billiards or a quiet chat over another cup of tea. For some years he drank nothing at all with Ms meals, at which he preferred his fish fried and his meat grilled; but later he allowed himself a glass of water, and on a hot afternoon, if he were thirsty, he now and then indulged in a little white wine and eau de Seltz.